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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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100 days of Trump 2.0

US President Donald Trump has shaken up the US and the entire world since taking office for a second term just three months ago. Tariff war, federal cuts and a huge number of executive orders drove the economy to the brink. **Salar 360** takes look at a whirlwind 100 days of Trump’s second term in the office.

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Armed forces get ‘full freedom’ to retaliate

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The armed forces have “complete operational freedom” to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India’s response to the Pahalgam terror attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

In the wake of the attack, almost half of the tourist sports in Jammu and Kashmir were closed for tourists on Tuesday.

Gates have been closed at 48 of the 87 public parks and gardens located in vulnerable areas of Kashmir, officials said. The spots put off limit for the tourists include Mughal Gardens, Dooshpathri, Kokernag, Duksum, Sinthan Top, Acchabal, Bangus valley, Margan Top and Tosamaidan.

- In the past, the government carried out surgical strikes inside Pakistan after the terror attack on army soldiers in Uri in 2016 and the Balakot air strike after the Pulwama attack.

Meanwhile, During the high-level meeting, which was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the chiefs of three services, Modi affirmed that it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, government sources said.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan was also part of the meeting, which was held amid India weighing its options for countermeasures following the Pahalgam terror attack which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead.

Modi has vowed to pursue the terrorists behind the attack and their patrons, a clear reference to Pakistan.

Shortly after the meeting Home Minister Amit Shah and RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat reached the Prime Minister’s residence.

Modi’s message, sources explained, greenlights military action against Pakistan.

In the past, the government carried out surgical strikes inside Pakistan after the terror attack on army soldiers in Uri in 2016 and the Balakot air strike after the Pulwama attack.

Following the terror strike in Pahalgam, India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty with the neighbouring country. Earlier in the day, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan had chaired a high-level meeting which was attended by chiefs of three paramilitary forces and senior officers of two other security organisations, sources said. There was no official word on its agenda. *—PTI*

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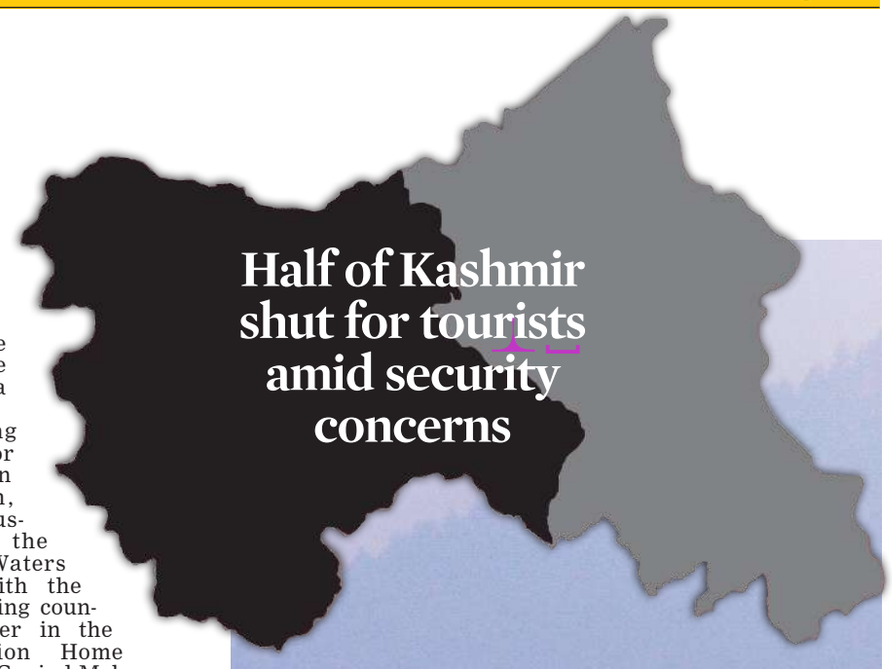

Half of Kashmir shut for tourists amid security concerns

India likely to shut airspace to Pakistani airlines

India is actively considering closing its airspace to Pakistani airlines and banning Pakistani ships from Indian ports, government sources revealed. These moves follow the deadly 22 April, terror attack in Pahalgam, where militants from Pakistan opened fire on civilians, killing 26. Pakistani carriers have already begun avoiding Indian airspace amid fears of Indian retaliation. If implemented, the ban would force Pakistani airlines to reroute flights over countries such as China or Sri Lanka to reach Southeast Asian destinations. India has taken several retaliatory measures, suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, revoking all Pakistani visas, shutting the Attari-Wagah border check post, and halting travel under the Saarc scheme. Defence advisors from India’s High Commission in Islamabad have been withdrawn, while Pakistani military officials in New Delhi have been declared persona non grata. *—Agencies*

NIA quizzes man over ‘Allahu Akbar’

The National Investigation Agency questioned a zipline operator in Pahalgam on Tuesday after a tourist from Ahmedabad inadvertently recorded the initial moments of terror attack at Baisaran Valley. The 53-second video, now viral, shows Rishi Bhatt enjoying a zipline ride as chaos erupts below—people fleeing and one collapsing. Bhatt, visiting with his wife and child, said he became suspicious when the zipline operator, whom he described as “Kashmiri,” shouted “Allahu Akbar” thrice just as gunfire began. Nine people had taken the ride before him without incident. Bhatt said he saw two terrorists questioning victims about their religion before shooting them, while others fired from bushes. He noted a lack of Army presence initially, though soldiers later evacuated tourists. *—Agencies*

Justice Gavai appointed 52nd CJI

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was on Tuesday appointed the next Chief Justice of India. He would enter the office of the CJI on 14 May, a day after incumbent CJI Justice Sanjiv Khanna demits office. The law ministry issued a notification announcing Justice Gavai’s appointment as 52nd chief justice of India. As per laid down procedure, his name was recommended by CJI Khanna on April 16 to the central government. Justice Gavai will have a tenure of six months and he would demit office on 23 December 23 on attaining the age of 65 years. *—PTI*

India’s Shubhanshu set for ISS mission on 29 May

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Axiom Space has announced the launch of its fourth mission to the International Space Station (ISS) on 29 May, featuring Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and three crew members from Poland and Hungary. This historic flight marks Shukla’s journey into space, four decades after Rakesh Sharma’s famed expedition aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. The crew, known as Ax-4, includes Sławosz Uznański, the second Polish astronaut since 1978, and Tibor Kapu, Hungary’s second astronaut since 1980. Peggy Whitson will command the mission, adding to her record for the longest cumulative time in space by an American astronaut. The crew will launch aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft and spend up to 14 days on the ISS. *—PTI*

K’taka HC allows bike taxis to operate till 15 June

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

High Court on Tuesday allowed Ola, Uber, and Rapido to continue their bike taxi services until 15 June. A single-judge bench of Justice B M Shyamaprasad heard the interim petition filed by Uber India Systems Private Limited, Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited, and ANI Technologies Private Ltd, seeking permission to continue operating bike taxi services. The court granted the petition. *—PTI*

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30 beat man to death in M’luru over ‘pro-Pak’ slogan

MANGALURU, 29 APRIL

A man was allegedly beaten to death by a mob over a dispute during a cricket match in the outskirts of the city, following which 15 people have been arrested, police said on Tuesday. The man was lynched for allegedly shouting “Pakistan Zindabad”.

The incident occurred at around 3pm on 27 April near the Bhatra Kallurti temple in Kudupu village on the outskirts of Mangaluru, police said.

Police were informed around 5.30 pm after the victim’s body was discovered near a temple.

The victim was allegedly assaulted with sticks, resulting in multiple injuries that led to internal bleeding and shock. He was declared dead at the hospital, police said.

The police are on the lookout for at least 10 more individuals, Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Anupam Agarwal said.

“Initially, the police registered a case of unnatural death. Post-mortem confirmed that the death was due to multiple blunt force injuries and lack of medical attention. The main accused, Sachin, a resident of Kudupu, is already in our custody,” Agarwal said.

Speaking to reporters here, Home Minister Parameshwara said that the victim did not die immediately but succumbed to his injuries later.

“An incident of mob lynching has been reported but the (victim’s) name is not known at this point of time and also his identity is not known...whether he has come from outside the state or within the state. I was told that this individual was reportedly shouting ‘Pakistan Zindabad’. When they heard this, a few people got together and beat him.” *—PTI*

Carney led Liberals win Canada polls

TORONTO, 29 APRIL

Prime Minister Mark Carney’s Liberal Party has won Canada’s federal election, capping a stunning turnaround in fortunes fuelled by US’s annexation threats and trade war.

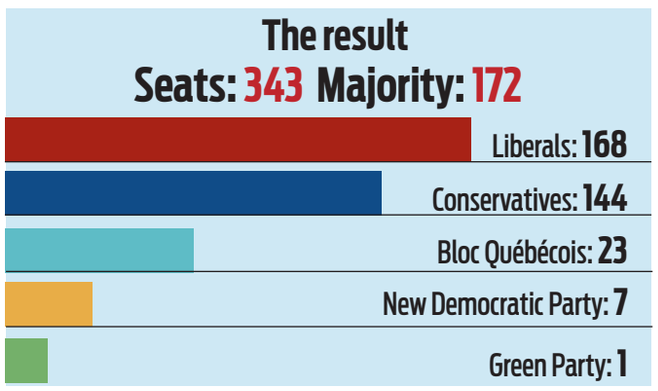
US President Donald Trump began attacking Canada’s economy and threatened its sovereignty, suggesting it should become the 51st state. This infuriated Canadians and stoked a surge in nationalism that helped the Liberals flip the election narrative and win a fourth-straight term in power.

A record 7.3 million Canadians cast ballots before election day.

On election day Trump suggested that he was on their ballot, while erroneously claiming that the US subsidises Canada.

If they don’t win a majority in Parliament, the Liberals have to rely on one of the smaller parties to remain in power and pass legislation.

The Bloc Quebecois looked set to finish third. The New Democrats fared poorly.



Congratulations @MarkJCarney on your election as the Prime Minister of Canada and to the Liberal Party on their victory. look forward to working with you to strengthen our partnership and unlock greater opportunities for our people.

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Canada is reeling under cost-of-living crisis. Over 75 per cent of its exports go to the US, so Trump’s tariffs threat and his desire to get North American automakers to move Canada’s production south could severely damage its economy.

Carney vowed that every dollar collected from counter-tariffs on US goods would go toward Canadian workers adversely affected by the trade war. He plans to keep dental care in place, offer a middle-class tax cut, return immigration to sustainable levels and increase funding to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. *—PTI*

Will Indo-Canadian ties improve?

- India and Canada’s relations nosedived in 2023 over allegations by Trudeau implicating ‘Indian agents’ in the killing of Khalistani Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
- Carney had signalled that he may reset ties with New Delhi describing the relationship with India as “incredibly important”.
- Carney in his campaign speeches hinted that he would resume India, Canada trade.
- Under Carney’s leadership, immigration policies are expected to remain favourable, particularly for Indian professionals and students.

‘NO IRREGULARITIES’

Adani Green gives clean chit to itself in US indictment case

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Adani Green Energy has said an independent review of its regulatory compliances related to an alleged breach that led to the indictment of founder chairman Gautam Adani and two company executives in a US court, did not find irregularities or non-compliances on the issue.

US authorities had charged Adani, his nephew and executive director Sagar Adani and managing director Veneet S Jaain for their involvement in an alleged scheme to pay USD 265 million bribes to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts, enabling Adani Green Energy to earn profits worth USD 2 billion over 20 years.

The accused had also concealedthe plan as they sought to raise money from US investors. Azure Power and CDPQ, a Canadian institutional investor, were also involved in the bribery scheme.

The firm said its holding company has not been named as a defendant in the indictment and civil complaint and the matter was pending for further proceedings. Adani Group had previously denied all allegations as baseless and said it would seek legal recourse to defend itself. Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) said its holding company has confirmed making “all appropriate disclosures in the past, including in bond offering circulars” that raised money from the US markets. Senior executives of AGEL had also conspired to misrepresent the company’s anti-bribery practices. *—PTI*

SC TO NOT RELEASE PEGASUS REPORT

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will not disclose any report that touches the country’s security and sovereignty, but indicated that it may address individual apprehensions of privacy breach.

A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh said the report of the technical committee should not be made a public document.

“Any report which touches the security and sovereignty of the country will not be touched. But individuals, who want to know whether they are included, can be informed. Yes, individual apprehension must be addressed but it cannot be made a document for discussion on the streets,” the bench observed.

The top court would examine to what extent the report can be shared with individuals. *—PTI*

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Alok to remain K’taka police Chief till 21 May

BENGALURU 29 APRIL

Alok Mohan ***PHOTO: PTI***

The Karnataka government extended the tenure of Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) Alok Mohan by 21 days, pushing his retirement from 30 April to 21 May. The decision on Tuesday was to allow more time to finalise his successor.

Alok Mohan, a 1987-batch IPS officer, is set to complete two years in the top post on 22 May, making the extension legally consistent with the Supreme Court’s directive mandating a fixed two-year tenure for state police chiefs.

With the search for the next DG&IGP underway, the state has forwarded a list of five IPS officers to the UPSC for empanelment. The front-runners include DGP (Criminal Investigation Department) MA Saleem, known for his traffic reforms; Prashant Kumar Thakur, a low-profile officer with administrative goodwill; Ramachandra Rao, whose tenure was clouded by a gold smuggling case involving his step-daughter; Malini Krishnamurthy, PK Mohanty, and Alok Kumar, who is credited with the tech-driven safety measures on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. *—Salar News*

Woman doc under scanner over 'anti-India' remark

MANGALURU, 29 APRIL

A woman doctor employed at a private hospital in Mangaluru is under police scrutiny after allegedly posting an 'anti-India' message on social media. In the controversial video, the doctor can purportedly be heard saying, "I hate India." City police stated on Monday that they have taken note of the matter and are currently verifying the authenticity of the post and the context in which the remarks were made. A senior police official confirmed that no formal case has been registered yet, but a preliminary inquiry is underway. Authorities will determine whether any legal provisions have been violated before deciding on further action based on the findings of the investigation. *—PTI*

Youth dies after consuming five bottles of whiskey

KOLAR, 29 APRIL

A 22-year-old labourer from Poojarahalli in Mulbagal taluk died after consuming five bottles of raw whiskey without water or soda, following a challenge from friends who promised him Rs 10,000 if he completed the task. The incident occurred around 8.30pm on Monday. According to police, Karthik was encouraged by three friends, Venkata Reddy, Subramani, and Gangi Reddy, who purchased the alcohol from a local bar and took him to a nearby farm to carry out the challenge. Karthik reportedly drank all five bottles and soon began complaining of severe stomach pain and nausea. He collapsed and was rushed to hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Nangali police have registered a case and are continuing their investigation. *—Salar News*

BMRCL signs ₹25 cr deal for metro train ads

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

To boost non-fare revenue, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has signed two seven-year contracts with Mudra Ventures and Lokesh Outdoor. The deals grant exclusive advertising rights for train wrapping and interior branding on the Purple and Green Lines, respectively. According to BMRCL's notification on Tuesday, the initiative is expected to generate at least Rs 25 crore annually. "This partnership reflects our commitment to world-class metro services and financial sustainability," said BMRCL Managing Director M Maheshwar Rao, IAS. The ads target high-footfall metro corridors, offering premium visibility to advertisers *—Salar News*

Hoax bomb threat causes panic at City college

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

A hoax bomb threat sent via email to Acharya Institute of Technology triggered panic on Tuesday morning. The anonymous message, discovered during a routine check around 10.30am, falsely claimed a bomb had been planted on campus. The sender also issued a violent threat to the college principal, saying he would be "chopped and stuffed in a fridge." Alarmed by the email, college authorities filed a complaint with Soladevanahalli police. A thorough search of the premises confirmed it was a false alarm. Initially, a non-cognisable report (NCR) was filed, but with court approval, a formal FIR was later registered. Police have launched an investigation to trace the email's origin *—Salar News*

Guv writes to CM, Speaker to revoke MLAs' suspension

BJP MLAs had climbed onto Speaker's podium, hurled papers

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Speaker UT Khader, to consider the request to revoke the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs.

In separate letters addressed to the Chief Minister and the Speaker, the Governor expressed his "desire" that they uphold the basic tenets of democratic values in the State and revoke the suspension.

A BJP delegation, led by State Party President BY Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, had met the Governor at Raj Bhavan on Monday and submitted a memorandum. They termed the move "undemocratic and unconstitutional."

On 21 March, 18 BJP MLAs were suspended for six months for showing "indiscipline" and "disrespecting" the Speaker. They were evicted from the Assembly by marshals.

Over 18 MLAs were suspended for creating ruckus inside Karnataka Assembly last month *PHOTO: PTI*

The incident leading to the suspension occurred on the last day of the Assembly's budget session, when BJP MLAs staged a massive protest. They were opposing the 4 per cent reservation for Muslims in public contracts and demanding a judicial probe into an alleged "honey-trap" attempt involving Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna. During the protest inside the Assembly, some BJP legislators climbed onto the Speaker's podium and surrounded his chair, while others hurled papers from the well of the House. Marshals had to intervene and forcibly evict the legislators. The suspended MLAs include BJP Chief whip Doddanagouda Patil, former Deputy CM CN Ashwath Narayan, S R Vishwanath, B A Basavaraju, M R Patil, Channabasappa, B Suresh Gowda, Umanath Kotyan, Sharanu Salagar, Dr Shailendra Beldale, CK Ramamurthy, Yashpal Suvarna, BP Harish, Bharath Shetty, Dheeraj Muniraju, Chandru Lamani, Muniratna, and Basavaraj Mattimud. *—PTI*

- Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Speaker UT Khader, to consider the request to revoke the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs.

Parameshwara blames BJP for CM's slap gesture

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

Home Minister G Parameshwara stated on Monday that he had limited information about a reported security lapse at a Congress protest in Belagavi but had directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to conduct a thorough investigation. According to preliminary reports, members of the BJP Mahila Morcha had allegedly infiltrated the rally disguised in Congress shawls and waved black flags during Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's address.

Parameshwara also criticised the BJP for what he described as a deceptive and provocative act, arguing that the protestors would have been identified sooner had they worn their party colours openly. "Entering a public gathering under false pretences is not only irresponsible, but a threat to public order," he remarked while speaking to reporters.

The controversy erupted during a Congress demonstration against rising prices, when a group of women—allegedly BJP workers—began waving black flags as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah took the stage. Visibly angered by the breach in security, Siddaramaiah confronted Assistant Superintendent of Police Narayan Bharamani and was seen raising his hand in frustration. "Who is the Belagavi SP? What's happening here? What are you doing here?" he demanded in full public view.

BJP swiftly condemned Siddaramaiah's behaviour, accusing him of intimidating a police officer and undermining the rule of law. The party described the episode as a "black day for democracy in Karnataka" and amplified criticism online under the hashtag . *—PTI*

Deve Gowda backs PM to punish perpetrators of terror attack

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda on Tuesday expressed full support for any action the Central Government may take under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. The JD(S) leader said politics should not be involved in such matters, calling instead for national unity.

Gowda said, 'For the first time, terrorists have carried out such a brutal attack on tourists. The government has intelligence suggesting Pakistan's involvement. The entire nation stands united behind the Prime Minister's decisions.'

He added that as a Rajya Sabha member and President of JD(S), along with his party colleagues—Minister HD Kumaraswamy and MP Mallesh Babu—they back all decisions by the Centre.

- Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda on Tuesday expressed full support for any action the Central Government may take under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

India has increased pressure on Pakistan after the 22 April, attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

When asked if he had spoken to the Prime Minister, Gowda said he had not, but would send his views in writing if needed. On the possibility of war, he deferred to the Modi's judgement, adding that international leaders, including Donald Trump, had condemned the attack.

He also acknowledged Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge's statement supporting the government. *—PTI*

YOUTHS GET LAPTOPS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, along with Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, participated in a ceremony at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday, where appointment orders were distributed to 1,000 newly recruited Village Administrative Officers. The event also marked the distribution of 4,000 laptops and the launch of digital land records distribution *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

Pourakarmika run over by tipper truck

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

A 50-year-old woman sanitation worker died after being run over by a tipper truck at Dhobi Ghat Junction near West of Chord Road early Tuesday morning. The incident, which police have attributed to negligent driving, occurred around 6.30am.

The victim, Saroja, employed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), was on her way to the ward office when the accident took place.

According to a police complaint filed by her son, Pratap Ganesh, she was crossing the road near Warrior Bakery when the tipper truck, which was stationary at the signal, lurched forward and knocked her down.

"The driver didn't check his surroundings before moving. The truck's front left wheel ran o ver her head as she fell," said a senior police officer.

Pratap was alerted by a bystander and rushed to the spot, where he found his mother unresponsive.

As a crowd gathered, the driver abandoned the vehicle and fled.

Saroja was rushed to Victoria Hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

"This was a preventable accident. The driver's carelessness has cost a life," the officer added *—Salar News*

Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board Chairman SE Sudheendra inaugurated a stakeholder consultation session on the proposed Karnataka State Bioenergy Policy at Hotel Capitol, Bengaluru *PHOTO: SALAR*

Bioenergy development board meets stakeholders in City

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board as organised a stakeholder consultation session on new Bioenergy Policy Development on 28 April at Hotel Capitol in Bengaluru.

The stakeholders of various streams of bio energy sector like compressed byiogas, ethanol, 2G ethanol, biomas based Greenhydrogen, policy makers, industrialists, were participated and provide their valuable inputs for the upcoming Karnataka State Bioenrgy Policy. This brainstorming and interaction meeting inaugurated by the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board Chairman SE Sudheendra in the presence of ex-MP and AICC leader Madhu Yakshi Goud, the board member Divakar Rao, Tumakuru University Vice Chancellor Venkateswaralu, Bal Bhavan Chairman CR Naidu, Congress leader Basavaraj, Managing Director Shiv Shankar L by lightning the lamp.

The major biofuel manufacturers and the entrepreneurs from Net jest, Carbon masters, GreenBurgenergy, Greenery Renewable Technologies, Blentech participated to provide inputs related to mass collection, aggregation and requirement of sustainable supply chain, taxation issues.. The Chairman requested the Chairman of Karnatake State pollution Control Board to come to the venue. *—Salar News*

MAN STABBED TO DEATH DURING BRAWL

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

A labourer was stabbed to death in the city by his friend following a heated argument between the two.

The deceased, Pawan, was a daily wage worker from Jharkhand. The accused, Ganesh Dhar, also from the same village, was taken into custody. The incident occurred at a shed near an under-construction building in Kadugodi on 28 April. According to police, both friends were employed at the construction site. After consuming alcohol, they had reportedly returned to the shed, where they watched a film on a mobile phone. Around 4pm, a altercation broke out between the two over a trivial matter. In a fit of rage Pawan slapped Ganesh. Ganesh in retaliation stabbed him in the chest. *—Salar News*

RELIEF TO COMMUTERS

HC allows Ola, Uber, Rapido bike taxis to operate till 15 June

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

High Court on Tuesday allowed Ola, Uber, and Rapido to continue their bike taxi services until 15 June.

A single-judge bench of Justice BM Shyamaprasad heard the interim petition filed by Uber India Systems Private Limited, Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited, and ANI Technologies Private Ltd, seeking permission to continue operating bike taxi services. The court granted the petition.

Earlier, the High Court had given a six-week deadline to Ola, Uber, and Rapido to cease their bike taxi operations. It also directed the state government to ensure proper regulation of bike taxi services within six weeks.

The court observed that the government should issue appropriate guidelines for bike taxi operations under Section 3 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

On 2 April, High Court had ordered that bike taxi services should not be allowed until further notice.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy had recently instructed the department to comply with the court's order.

Meanwhile, Rapido has planned to launch a food delivery pilot project to keep its services running. The pilot is likely to begin next week. *—PTI*

BEML LAUNCHES LARGEST ELECTRIC ROPE SHOVEL

BENGALURU, 29 APRIL

Bengaluru-headquartered BEML Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking, on Tuesday announced the launch of the country's largest indigenously designed and developed electric rope shovel—BRS21.

Describing it as a technological marvel, BEML said the BRS21 rope shovel is entirely designed, engineered, and manufactured in India.

According to BEML, the high-capacity electric rope shovel is purpose-built for large-scale overburden removal in opencast mining operations. *—PTI*

7 arrested in ₹3 crore mobile theft case

CHIKKABALLAPUR, 29 APRIL

Police have arrested seven individuals in a major mobile phone theft case reported in November 2024 and recovered 56 stolen handsets. Additionally, with support from the Department of Telecommunications, authorities are deactivating another 4,084 mobile phones linked to the crime.

Chikkaballapur Superintendent of Police Kushal Chousky revealed that on 28 November, Padmanabh, Manager at Safe Speed Carriers, filed a complaint after a container with 6,660 mobile phones worth Rs 3 crore being transported from Noida to Bengaluru was stolen from Reddy Gollarahalli. The driver, Rahul, had gone missing. Following the complaint, Rahul was arrested on 10 December in Miyo village, Haryana.

Investigation led by DySP Ravikumar KY and Inspector Surya Prakash uncovered six more accomplices. The accused had transferred the stolen consignment into another truck, moved it to New Delhi, and distributed the phones across 18 states, selling them at reduced prices. Unwitting customers had been using the devices, now being blocked by telecom authorities. Police are continuing efforts to trace and recover the remaining phones. *—Salar News*

Union Cabinet to meet for 1st time after Pahalgam

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The Union Cabinet is set to convene on Wednesday for its first meeting since the Pahalgam attack. The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is scheduled for 11 am. There was no Cabinet meeting last week; only the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) convened on 23 April, condemning the terror incident. Following the CCS meeting, India announced several significant measures, including a downgrading of diplomatic relations with Pakistan. Among the measures implemented were the expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, and the immediate closure of the Attari land transit post. *—PTI*

Rajasthan edu department website hacked

JAIPUR, 29 APRIL

The website of the Rajasthan education department was hacked on Tuesday, displaying a message that mocked the Indian government regarding the 2019 capture of IAF officer Abhinandan Varthaman by Pakistan. The hackers also included objectionable content related to the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 individuals, primarily tourists. While no sensitive data leak has been confirmed, a thorough examination of the entire system is currently underway. The hacked homepage sported the message "Fantastic Tea Club Pakistan Cyber Force," essentially a reminder of the events surrounding Varthaman's capture. His MiG-21 Bison aircraft was shot down during a skirmish in February 2019, leading to his brief detention by Pakistani forces. In response to the cyber-attack, Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar instructed the IT wing of the department to restore the website promptly. The site has been temporarily taken offline for restoration. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Kharge, Rahul demand spl Parl session over attack

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, have urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene a special session of Parliament in response to the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Kharge emphasised the necessity for unity and solidarity during this critical time. In a similar letter, Gandhi stressed that the Pahalgam incident has stirred outrage across the nation and called for Parliament to demonstrate its unity against terrorism. Despite the Opposition's demands, government sources have downplayed the likelihood of a special session, noting that the recent all-party meeting was intended to project national unity. *—PTI*

Centre's response to J&K 'biased': Meitei group

IMPHAL, 29 APRIL

The COCOMI, an umbrella body of several Meitei civil society organisations of Manipur, on Tuesday alleged that the Centre's response to terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and the north-eastern state reflected its "bias". In the case of Kashmir, the government treats terrorist groups as enemies, while it seems that the Centre has been treating militants in Manipur in a friendly manner, COCOMI Convenor Athouba Khuraijam claimed. "This kind of partial treatment has long been a serious concern," he said. "The state has been grappling with violence and instability for nearly two years. Yet, the Centre has failed to provide a solution." *—PTI*

Pak Defence Min exposes 'rogue state': India at UN

'World can't turn a blind eye to Pakistan destabilising the region'

UNITED NATIONS, 29 APRIL

India at the UN said that Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif admitting to his country's history of supporting and funding terrorist organisations exposes Pakistan as a "rogue state".

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Yojna Patel delivered a strong Right of Reply at the hybrid launch event for the 'Victims of Terrorism Association Network' (VoTAN) of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism on Monday when Pakistan's delegate made a reference to the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is unfortunate that one particular delegation has chosen to misuse and undermine this forum to indulge in propaganda and make baseless allegations against India," Patel said.

"The whole world heard the Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif admitting and confessing Pakistan's history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations in a recent television interview," she said "This open confession surprises no one and exposes Pakistan as a rogue state fueling global terrorism and destabilising the region. The world can no longer turn a blind eye," she said.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Yojna Patel

PHOTO: PTI

> **Even the most challenging issues can be resolved peacefully through meaningful and constructive dialogue. Ready to support any initiatives, acceptable to both parties, that promote de-escalation and the resumption of dialogue.**
>
> -Antonio Guterres, The Secretary-General of UN

India also said that the "strong, unequivocal" support and solidarity extended by global leaders is a testimony to the international community's "zero tolerance" for terrorism.

India also termed the establishment of the VoTAN as a significant step, saying it will create a structured, safe space for victims to be heard and supported. VoTAN is an initiative bringing together victims of terrorism and victims' associations from across the globe to drive collective action to support victims' rights and needs.

"Having been a victim of cross-border terrorism for decades, India fully understands the long-lasting impact such acts have on victims, and their families," Patel added.

Meanwhile, China reiterated its call for India and Pakistan to exercise restraint. "Their harmonious coexistence is vital to the peace and stability of the region," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said. *—PTI*

The Pakistan Army fired small arms across the LoC in opposite Kupwara and Baramulla districts, and now Akhnoor PHOTO: PTI

Pakistan violates ceasefire for 5th day

JAMMU, 29 APRIL

The Indian Army said Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir for a fifth consecutive night, expanding the arc of violations to the Akhnoor sector of Jammu district.

"During the night of 28-29 April, the Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked small arms firing across the Line of Control (LoC) in areas opposite Kupwara and Baramulla districts, as well as the Akhnoor sector," a defence spokesperson said.

The Indian Army responded in a measured and effective manner to the provocation, he added.

There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

> **Please don't politicise the incident or play with our emotions. We were there. We know what the terrorists said. We have already shared their statements during the attack**
>
> -Pragati Jagdale, wife of Pahalgam victim Santosh Jagdale

Starting with unprovoked small arms firing at several posts along the LoC in Kupwara and Baramulla districts of north Kashmir, Pakistan expanded its ceasefire violation to the Poonch sector and subsequently to Akhnoor. *—PTI*

MISSING NEVERMORE

The Congress shared on X a poster targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his absence during the All Party meeting over the Pahalgam attacks. The post quickly gained traction in Pakistan, with former minister Fawad Ahmed Hussain Chaudhry resharing it while taking a jab at Modi. The heat grew as the BJP called the party "Lashkar-e-Pakistan Congress". Party communications head Jairam Ramesh attempted to defend the poster, saying it reflected the party's sentiments. However, the Congress later deleted the image PHOTO: X

Children with one Pak parent in the lurch

BHOPAL, 29 APRIL

The Centre's stern 'leave the country' order following the 22 April Pahalgam attack, has left many families who have one Pakistani parent in a conundrum.

Authorities in Madhya Pradesh have sought advice from the Centre on nine children born to Indian mothers and Pakistani fathers.

They are also looking for a solution in the case of a Pakistani man who applied for a Long Term Visa (LTV) on 25 April in Bhopal just before the Union government's order, the official informed on Monday.

Of 14, three have left India and reached Pakistan. One person is in Delhi due to some issue, which is being looked into by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office," he said.

According to officials, there are 228 Pakistani nationals on different types of visas in Madhya Pradesh. The Centre on 25 April revoked 14 categories of visas, including business, conference, visitor and pilgrim, given to Pakistani nationals.

In a communication to all state governments, the home ministry said the order will not apply to Long Term Visas (LTVs) and diplomatic and official visas issued to Pakistani nationals.

Incidentally, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on 25 April called up the chief ministers of all states and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline set for leaving the country. *—PTI*

The Madhya Pradesh government was confused about how to act on the nine children born to one Indian and one Pakistani parent PHOTO: PTI

> **Reconsider this decision (to deport Pakistani nationals) and adopt a compassionate approach regarding women, children and elderly. Deporting individuals who have lived peacefully in India for decades would not only be inhumane but also would inflict deep emotional and physical distress on families who now know no other home**
>
> -Mehbooba Mufti, J&K PDP President

Pak boys seeking lifesaving procedure forced to return

KARACHI, 29 APRIL

- Talha, 9, and Taha's, 7, father Shahid Ali said they had come to Delhi for a lifesaving medical procedure, but were forced to return to Sindh's Hyderabad after a 'Leave India' notice

A Pakistani family visiting New Delhi for a life-saving procedure for two minor boys returned to Hyderabad city in Sindh after the Indian government issued a 'Leave India' notice.

Shahid Ali, the father of Talha, 9, and Taha, 7, said on Tuesday that his sons, who needed the procedure as soon as possible, had accompanied him to New Delhi in March after a long process of communicating with the specialist, multiple tests and getting medical visas.

"Unfortunately, the situation changed after the Pahalgam incident, and we just didn't have time for our appeals to be heard properly," he said. "We spent a lot of money, but that is not the issue. What is heartbreaking is that the procedure could not be completed despite the best efforts of the medical staff in Delhi."

Similarly, on Monday, another Pakistani youngster, Ayan, returned from New Delhi with his family after he also failed to get a medical procedure done for a one-year-old ailment. *—PTI*

Shaurya Chakra awardee's mom deported to Pak

SRINAGAR, 29 APRIL

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday have set the ball rolling for the deportation of 60 Pakistanis, one of them the mother of Shaurya Chakra awardee who was killed in a terror attack, officials said.

Shameema Akhtar, the mother of Constable Mudasir Ahmad Shaikh, died in May 2022 while fighting terrorists, is one of the deportees.

Mudasir was part of the team of undercover operatives of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, which intercepted a group of foreign terrorists.

Shaikh was posthumously awarded the Shaurya Chakra. *—PTI*

Version 2.0 loading, says Stalin on DMK's 2026 prospects

CHENNAI, 29 APRIL

Chief Minister MK Stalin expressed strong confidence that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) will retain power in the upcoming Assembly elections, declaring, "Version 2.0 loading in 2026." In a concluding address during an Assembly debate regarding his Home portfolio, highlighted the achievements of the DMK-led government.

Stalin reported that Tamil Nadu achieved an impressive economic growth rate of 9.69 per cent for 2024-25, surpassing the national average of 6.5 per cent . The Chief Minister praised various initiatives, including a "no dropout" policy in middle schools, efforts to alleviate poverty, and advancements in higher education, saying despite challenges posed by the Union Government and financial constraints, the DMK government prevailed.

MK Stalin PHOTO: PTI

Stalin announced that the word 'colony' would be dropped as it was a derogatory term to refer to the original inhabitants of the land. "It is a symbol of dominance and untouchability. Hence, the word will be removed from official documents and public practice," Stalin who made 102 announcements on the occasion, informed.

"It's not the rule of one man. I call it Dravidian model government, symbolic of the principle-based rule," he said on his government.

In response, AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami mocked Stalin's remarks.

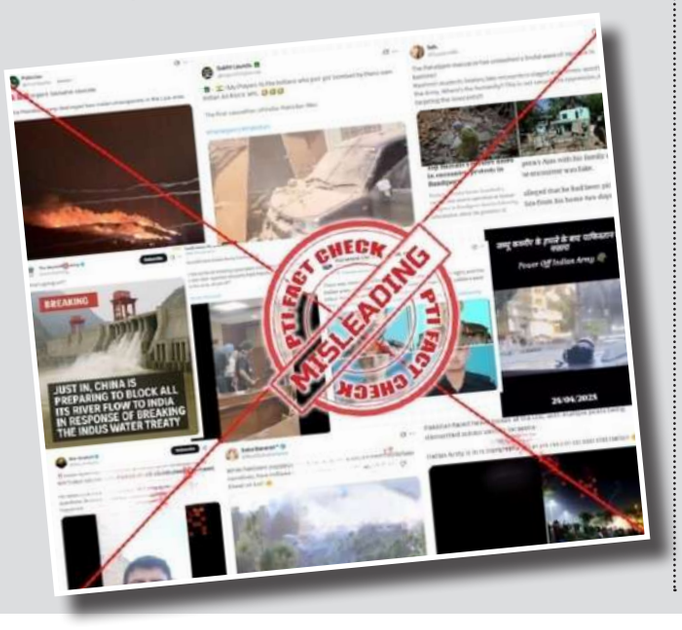
In the elections next year, people will say "bye bye Stalin," Palaniswami said on X. *—PTI*

WARMONGERING

Pahalgam opens floodgates of misinformation

New Delhi, 29 April
Following the Pahalgam attacks, the floodgates of fake news, misinformation and disinformation opened on social media. Scores of unverified posts peddled false and inflammatory narratives.

The Press Trust of India's fact check unit examined 10 of the most widely circulated claims, nine on X and one on Instagram, falsely portraying heightened tensions, retaliatory strikes and internal unrest.


PTI FACT CHECK
MISLEADING
PTI FACT CHECK
BREAKING
JUST IN, CHINA IS PREPARING TO BLOCK ALL ITS RIVER FLOW TO INDIA IN RESPONSE OF BREAKING THE INDUS WATER TREATY

Checkpost destroyed?

A viral claim suggested the Pakistani Army destroyed two Indian checkpoints in the Leepa Valley of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The post was an image of a fire in the hills. PTI's verification traced the image to a 2025 wildfire in Northern Ireland's Mourne Mountains.

2020 vision

A video showing an explosion in the mountains was shared with the claim that the Pakistan Army had targeted and destroyed an Indian Army post. The investigation revealed that the same video has been on the internet since 2020.

Israel in Kashmir?

A clip showing a building being struck by a missile was misattributed to Indian action in PoK. It was actually footage from 2024 Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon.

Punjab, not Pahalgam

A video showed an Indian journalist confronting Army officers over their refusal to engage with Pakistan. However, the footage was from a March 2025 press conference by Punjab police.

Imran Khan protests

A post alleged that Pakistani military posts suffered heavy losses along the LoC, backed by visuals of shelling. The video was from May 2023, when security forces clashed with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters during protests demanding Imran Khan's release.

China and the IWT

Allegations China would block rivers to India in retaliation for a supposed violation of the Indus Water Treaty was doing the rounds online. The fact check team scanned top Indian and Western news websites but found no information or news reports to substantiate the claim. *—PTI*

SC slams Chh'garh govt for unending liquor scam probe

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The Supreme Court, hearing two bail pleas in the alleged Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in Chhattisgarh, pulled up the state government and asked how long it will keep an accused in jail. On Monday a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan noted that three chargesheets were filed in the matter and the investigation was still underway. "Investigation will go on till eternity. Three chargesheets have been filed. You are virtually penalising the person by keeping him in custody. You have made the process a punishment," the bench remarked. *—PTI*

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

Guwahati youth featured in 'Family Man 3' drowns

GUWAHATI, 29 APRIL

Guwahati youth, Rohit Basfor, who was part of the upcoming web series 'Family Man 3' drowned in a waterfall on the outskirts of the city. State Disaster Response Force personnel recovered the body from the Garbhanga waterfall, located inside a reserve forest by the same name on 27 April. Ruling out any foul play in the incident, police said that the real reason of death could be ascertained only after the autopsy report arrived and investigation was completed. Basfor's family alleged foul play by the friends accompanying him, a charge denied by the latter. Basfor's Instagram handle identifies him as a digital creator and martial art and gymnastic coach. *—PTI*

Three held for gang-raping girl in Ranchi

RANCHI, 29 APRIL

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly raping a girl in Jharkhand's Ranchi district. The incident had taken place a few days back under Namkum Police Station area, but the victim's father lodged an FIR on 27 April. A police team arrested the accused, who admitted to have committed the crime. The accused were identified as Jagdish Swansi, 20, Vishnu Munda, 18 and Deepak Munda, 19. Vishnu reportedly knew the girl and they were in touch on social media. He took her to a hilly area while she was returning from a market. Two of his associates were already present in the area. Then they committed the crime. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

NAI to preserve Kalam's private documents

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The private papers of former President APJ Abdul Kalam, including his passport, Aadhaar card, PAN card, original correspondences, and lectures delivered at various institutions, have been acquired by the National Archives of India (NAI). The collection, also comprising several original photographs, was donated by his niece, APJM Nazema Maraikayar, and his grandnephew, APJMJ Sheik Saleem. NAI Director General Arun Singhal signed the agreement with Maraikayar to acquire the materials. Kalam, known as the 'Missile Man of India', was an eminent scientist and the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007. His contributions to India's missile development and the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998 were pivotal. A respected author and passionate mentor, he inspired the youth with his books like 'Wings of Fire' and 'India 2020'. *—PTI*

SC: Why can't we use spyware on terrorists?

Apex Court agrees to address privacy breach; refuses to publicise technical panel report

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

While hearing the Pegasus case, the Supreme Court wondered what was wrong in using the "spyware against terrorists".

On Tuesday, a bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh indicated it may address individual apprehensions of privacy breach but the report of the technical committee was no document to discuss "on the streets".

Advocate Dinesh Dwivedi, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the question was whether the government had the spyware and used it. "If they have it, there is nothing to prevent them from using it continuously even today".

The bench responded, "Please make submissions with regard to disclosure regarding individuals. The kind of scenario we are facing nowadays, let us be slightly responsible."

The apex court went on, "What is wrong if the country is using the spyware against the terrorists? To have spyware is not wrong, against whom you are using is the question. You can't compromise with the security of nation. Private civil individual who has right to privacy will be protected under the Constitution," the bench said.

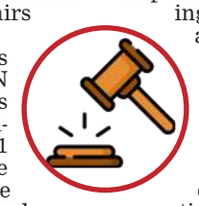
Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for journalist Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, referred to a US district court judgment.

"WhatsApp itself has disclosed here. Not a third party. WhatsApp itself has disclosed that there was a hack. That time your lordships had not indicated whether hacking took place. Even experts didn't say so. Now you have evidence. Evidence by WhatsApp. The redacted portion should be given to concerned individuals so they know," Sibal said.

The apex court then posted the hearing on 30 July. *—PTI*

Why is BCI interfering in academic affairs, asks SC

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL



The Supreme Court on Tuesday grilled the Bar Council of India for "interfering in academic affairs of law colleges".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh was hearing pleas challenging the BCI's 2021 decision to scrap the one-year LLM course in the country and de-recognise foreign LLMs.

"Why are you interfering in academic affairs? Some academic expert should take of these things," the bench said.

When BCI's advocate Vivek Tankha said it was the "existing system", the bench remarked, "You (BCI) have imposed yourself and claiming you are the only authority."

The apex court expressed its dissatisfaction over the quality of judicial officers inducted at the grassroot level. "What kind of officers are we getting? Are they properly sensitised? Do they have compassion? Do they understand the ground realties or just deliver mechanical judgments?" *—PTI*

SC refuses to entertain fresh pleas challenging Waqf Act amendment

New Delhi, 29 April

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain 13 more petitions challenging constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, saying it cannot add any more pleas. A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna asked the petitioners, including Firoz Iqbal Khan, Imran Pratapgadhi, Shaik Muneer Ahmad and Muslim Advocates Association, to intervene in main pleas if they have additional grounds to challenge Waqf law. "We will hear all...Five cases have been registered. If you want to argue additional points then move impleadment applications," the CJI said. *—PTI*

SC asks CBI to probe builder-banks nexus

New Delhi, 29 April

Observing an "unholy nexus" between the banks and developers to dupe home buyers, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the CBI to register seven preliminary probes against builders in NCR.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh found a prima-facie nexus between renowned banks and builders in Noida, Gurugram, Yamuna Expressway, Greater Noida, Mohali, Mumbai, Kolkata and Allahabad. *—PTI*

SC rejects ex-IPS Sanjiv Bhatt's bail plea in custodial death case

New Delhi, 29 April

The Supreme Court dismissed the bail plea of convicted former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in a 1990 custodial death case in which he was sentenced to life imprisonment. On Tuesday a bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said there was no merit in his plea for bail or the suspension of sentence in the case. "We are not inclined to grant Sanjiv Bhatt bail. The hearing of appeal shall not be affected. The hearing of appeal is expedited," Justice Nath said while pronouncing the verdict.

Bhatt had moved the top court in 2024 challenging the Gujarat High Court's 9 January, 2024 order dismissing his appeal. The high court also upheld the conviction of Bhatt and co-accused Pravinsinh Zala under Sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. *—PTI*

Who is Sanjiv Bhatt?

New Delhi, 29 April

On 30 October, 1990, then additional superintendent of police Sanjiv Bhatt detained around 150 people following a communal riot in Jamjodhpur town after against BJP leader LK Advani's called for constructing a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Prabhudas Vaishnani, one of the detainees, died shortly after his release and his brother accused Bhatt and six other police officials of torturing him in custody. *—PTI*

FATHER SUSPECTS MURDER

'Missing' Indian student in Canada found dead

OTTAWA, 29 APRIL

A 21-year-old Indian student who went missing three days ago in Canada's Ontario province was found dead, according to authorities.

Vanshika's death was confirmed by the Indian High Commission in Ottawa on X, on Monday.

"We are deeply saddened to be informed of the death of Ms. Vanshika," it said, adding that the authorities concerned have taken up the case, which is now under investigation.

Vanshika went missing last Friday after leaving her residence at 7 Majestic Drive in Ottawa around 9pm to view a rental room, according to a social media post by an Indo-Canadian association linked by the High Commission.

According to the post, her phone was switched off at approximately 11.40pm that night and she missed an important exam the next day, which it said was "completely out of character" for her.

The High Commission said it was in "close contact with the bereaved kin and local community associations to provide all possible assistance".

Her father, Aam Aadmi Party leader Davinder Saini, spoke to ANI and raised concerns that his daughter may have been murdered. Vanshika was a resident of Saini Mohalla in Dera Bassi, and her father is a close associate of MLA Kuljit Singh Randhawa.

"I want the Indian government to talk to the Canadian authorities and speed up the process of bringing her body back. I also demand a proper investigation to be carried out," he said. *—PTI/ANI*

Vanshika *PHOTO: X*

- Vanshika left her residence around 9pm to view a rental room, according to a social media post by an Indo-Canadian association linked by the High Commission. Her phone was switched off at approximately 11.40pm

A demolition drive by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation near Chandola lake on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*

Ahmedabad civic body pulls down B'deshi settlements

AHMEDABAD, 29 APRIL

Civic authorities and police in Ahmedabad have initiated a significant demolition campaign in the Chandola Lake area, following the recent detention of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants living in encroachments around the water body.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) is leading the operation, supported by around 2,000 policemen, including Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sharad Singhal. Police Commissioner GS Malik confirmed that all police stations in the city are on high alert to ensure security during the drive in this majority Muslim neighbourhood.

The demolition, which began early Tuesday with 50 teams equipped with earth-moving machinery, targets nearly 2,000 illegal structures identified in a recent survey. Malik stated that Mehmood Pathan, a key figure behind the encroachment who allegedly assisted immigrants with housing and documentation, faces a first information report.

The authorities have also demolished Pathan's illegal farmhouse located by the lake. Earlier, DGP Vikas Sahay announced that around 450 Bangladeshi nationals were discovered residing unlawfully in Gujarat, part of a crackdown that led to the detention of approximately 6,500 undocumented individuals across the state. *—PTI*

Minor among 4 held for gangrape

JIND, 29 APRIL

Four persons, including a juvenile, have been arrested for gangraping a 35-year-old woman and the murder of her five-year-old daughter on 21 April in Haryana. Authorities were notified three days later by the victim's mother, who had lost consciousness due to the trauma.

Police said following an altercation with a neighbour, the woman was forcibly taken to a nearby garbage dump and gangraped.

Her daughter, who had been searching for her, was also sexually assaulted and killed. The girl's body was initially buried by the family but was exhumed after the mother regained consciousness and reported the crime on 24 April. The accused have been identified as Hamid Khan, 46, and two 18-year-olds, Shiva and Biru, and a 13-year-old boy. *—PTI*

Aadhaar sharing to stay voluntary in voting

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

As the Election Commission (EC) cleans electoral rolls of duplicate entries, sources said on Tuesday that Aadhaar sharing on a voluntary basis will remain unaltered.

They underlined that sharing Aadhaar details with poll authorities is voluntary under the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 and it will continue to remain so.

The sources also noted that there is no plan to tweak the law or related rules in this regard.

They were responding to questions on whether there was a proposal to make Aadhaar sharing compulsory and whether voters who don't share details will have to justify their reasons for not giving out details. The EC said last month that the regular updating process of the voter list will be strengthened in close coordination with the birth and death registration authorities. *—PTI*

NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS

US puts India on 'watch list' for IP breaches

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The US placed India again on its 'priority watch list' stating that New Delhi remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights.

On Tuesday, the US Trade Representative's (USTR) 2025 Special 301 report said that over the past year, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on intellectual property protection and enforcement.

It said that although India worked to strengthen its IP regime, including raising public awareness about the importance of the subject, and increasing engagement with the US on IP issues, there continues to be a lack of progress on many long-standing IP concerns. "India remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP," it said.

It added that patent issues continue to be of particular concern.

"Among other concerns, the potential threat of patent revocations and the procedural and discretionary invocation of patentability criteria under the Indian Patents Act impact companies across different sectors. Moreover, patent applicants generally continue to confront long waiting periods to receive patent grants and excessive reporting requirements," the report said.

Stakeholders continue to express concerns over vagueness in the interpretation of the Indian Patents Act, it alleged.

"While steps to improve IP Office operations and procedures are to be commended, India's overall IP enforcement remains inadequate," it said, noting New Delhi maintains high customs duties directed to IP-intensive products such as information and communications technology (ICT) products, solar energy equipment, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and capital goods.

The report has listed eight countries, including India in its 'priority watch list'. China, Indonesia, Russia, Argentina, and Venezuela are among others on the list. *—PTI*

High-profile person made skin colour remarks: CS

T'PURAM, 29 APRIL

Kerala's outgoing chief secretary Sarada Muraleedharan on Tuesday said it was a high-profile person who had made insulting remarks against her skin colour recently, while refusing to name the individual.

Muraleedharan, who will retire from her bureaucratic service on 30 April, said that though she and the person had interacted in a friendly manner, the latter had neither apologised nor expressed regret for the comments.

The bureaucrat had commented on Facebook regarding the colour and gender bias she faced and its continued presence in society, sparking a debate with many supporting her.

A comment comparing her work with that of her husband and predecessor, V Venu prompted her to ignite the debate.

Muraleedharan had admitted that the comment came from a high-profile person, but refused to reveal the individual's identity.

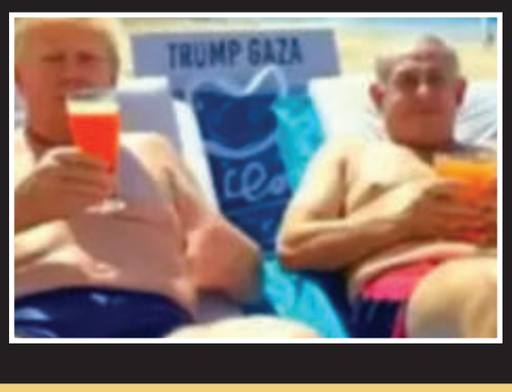
She also spoke of several persons from different fields expressing their solidarity with her and informing that they were subjected to the same abuse in their lives.

A Jayathilak would be Kerala's new chief secretary after her retirement. *—PTI*

1 DAY

"Nobody's done more in 100 days than me! Trade fixed, economy booming, jobs up, America first!"

DONALD J TRUMP,
The 47th President of the United States of America



THE TARIFF MAYHEM

President Donald Trump's first 100 days back in the Oval Office have plunged the global economy into chaos. The tariff war began on 1 Feb, with Trump imposing 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada, and 10% on China. On 10 Feb, he expanded duties to include a 25% tariff on all foreign steel and aluminium. He announced 25% tariffs on the EU. By 13 March, Trump threatened a 200% tariff on European wine and spirits. On 2 April, dubbed "Liberation Day", he unveiled a sweeping tariff overhaul, imposing a 10% baseline import tax on all countries. Country-specific rates included: China (34%), India (27%), EU (20%), Cambodia (49%), Bangladesh (37%), and Sri Lanka (44%). Liberation Day panic swiped out over $9T in US stock market. On 9 April, Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs took effects. On 10 April, Trump posted on X: "It's a good time to buy", just before suspending the tariffs for 90 days. He was accused of mkt manipulation. China raised its tariffs on US goods to 84%, prompting the US to retaliate with 254% duties.

TRUMP TARGETS LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

Trump rolled back key protections for the LGBTQ+ community. On 27 January, he ended all diversity and inclusion programmes within the US military. The following day, his administration withdrew federal funding for gender-affirming health care for transgender minors. Then, on 5 February, Trump issued a nationwide ban on transgender athletes competing in women's sports. Companies also stopped diversity hiring .

From top: Trump announces Gold Card visa, offering US citizenship for $5M; Elon Musk and his son Lil X join Trump in the Oval Office. Trump later removed the 145-yr-old desk after X was seen picking his nose; Ukraine's Prez Volodymyr Zelenskyy is scolded by Trump and JD Vance; Indian PM Narendra Modi meets Trump; Trump and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu are seen chilling on the beach in the an AI video of "Trump's Gaza"

1 POLICY

TRUMP PLAYS GOD

20 JAN

On his first day as the 47th US President, Donald Trump signed executive orders for:

- Pardoned 1,500 Capitol rioters.
- Paused TikTok ban for 75 days.
- Created the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) under Elon Musk; froze federal hiring and regulations.
- Ordered US exit from the Paris Agreement.
- Renamed the Gulf of Mexico to "Gulf of America".
- Announced plans to make Canada the 52nd US state.

21 JAN

- Ordered the closure of all federal diversity, equity, and inclusion offices.

23 JAN

- Signed an executive order to release files related to the assassinations of JFK, RFK, and Martin Luther King Jr.

24 JAN

- Withdrew US from World Health Organisation; reinstated Mexico City policy on abortion funding.

25 JAN

- Trump wants the US to acquire Greenland and Panama Canal.

4 FEB

- USAID announces leave for all direct hires and ends funding to all nations.
- Trump meets Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and calls for removal of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip.

6 FEB

- Deports 1st batch of 104 Indians illegal immigrants on C-17 Globemaster aircraft. The immigrants were handcuffed and shackled for over 36 hours.

7 FEB

- Revokes Joe Biden's security clearance.

25 FEB

- Announces a "Gold Card" visa, offering US citizenship for $5M (Rs 37.5 cr)as a higher-tier version of the green card.

26 FEB

- Outrage after Trump posts an AI-generated video on Truth Social showing a future Gaza under US occupation called "Trump Gaza".

28 FEB

- Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is subjected to a verbal assault by Trump and Vance, who denounce him for his lack of gratitude for US support amid war with Russia.

3 MARCH

- Pauses all military aid to Ukraine.

7 MARCH

- Freezes $400 million funds to Columbia University for "failure to protect Israeli students" amid Gaza protests in campus.

8 MARCH

- Pro-Palestinian student activist and US resident Mahmoud Khalil is taken from his New York City apartment and detained in Louisiana. This is the first publicly known deportation related to pro-Palestinian activism.

16 MARCH

- Cuts off funding for Voice of America, Radio Liberty and other pro-democracy media.

20 MARCH

- Directed the closure of the US Department of Education.

26 MARCH

- Signed executive order to 'reform' elections and make proof of citizenship mandatory for voter registration.

14 APRIL

- Trump says will freeze $2.2 billion in grants and $60 million in contracts for Harvard after the university refused to comply with its antisemitism policy.

RESEARCH: AMINA AFAQ, VINODHINI; DESIGN: G VISHWANATHA

MISSION DEPORTATION OF ILLEGAL ALIENS

Like in his first term, Trump targeted undocumented illegal immigrants. His administration conducted immigration checks in hospitals, schools, churches, gurdwaras, and even homes. Officials reportedly knocking on doors at random, demanding IDs, and detaining even legal migrants. In February, Indian nationals were deported on a US military aircraft while handcuffed and shackled for over 36 hours, sparking outrage over inhumane treatment. Trump also revoked visas of thousands of students involved in protests or charged with minor offenses, including traffic violations. Over 200 suspected gang members were deported to a high-security prison in El Salvador, despite a court order blocking it. He revoked legal status of 5,30,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans. Legal migrants also received emails revoking their status. ICE arrested 1,45,000 immigration violators in Trump's first three months — surpassing all of fiscal 2024. Trump announced sops for illegal "aliens" who self-deport.

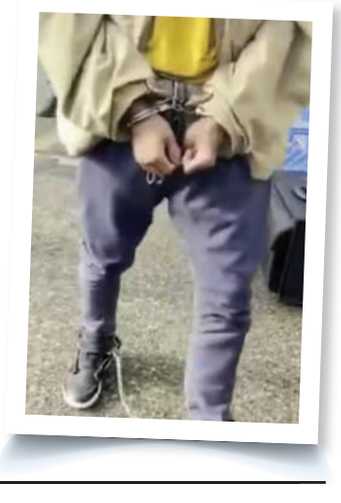


PHOTO: PTI

75% of NJ wildfire contained: Officials

NEW JERSEY, 29 APRIL

Three-fourths of a vast wildfire in New Jersey's Pine Barrens has been contained, state officials said on Monday. The state Forest Fire Service said the blaze in southern New Jersey's Ocean County had grown to nearly 62 square kilometres but was 75 per cent contained. No deaths or injuries have been reported, though several buildings and vehicles have been destroyed officials said. A 19-year-old man from Waretown is charged with arson. Prosecutors say Joseph Kling set wood pallets on fire and left the area before putting them out, sparking what became the state's second-largest fire in nearly two decades. The Office of the Public Defender, representing King, said he's "presumed innocent until proven otherwise in a court of law". —*PTI*

Indian held with illegal cash at Kathmandu airport

KATHMANDU, 28 APRIL

An Indian national has been arrested from Tribhuvan International Airport here along with illegal Nepalese and Indian bank notes on Sunday. The police arrested Saurabh Thakural, 45, from the departure lawn during a security checking. He was found to be carrying Nepalese Rs 11 lakh and Rs 82,500 in Indian currency in his luggage, a Nepal police news bulletin said. Police arrested him as he was about to board a Delhi bound Air India flight and handed him over to the Revenue Investigation Department.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Two killed as leaking oil tanker explodes in Pak

QUETTA, 29 APRIL

A leaking oil tanker caught fire and exploded along a dusty road in southwestern Pakistan, killing two and injuring 56 others, officials said on Tuesday. The tanker exploded as firefighters were trying to put out the fire Monday in the Naushki district of Balochistan province, police officer Atta Ullah said. Firefighters and onlookers were among the injured. The tanker driver and a bystander were killed. Around 10 of the injured were in critical condition and some were being airlifted to the southern city of Karachi, where better medical care is available, said Waseem Baig, a spokesman for Civil Hospital in Quetta. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti visited the inured undergoing treatment at Civil Hospital in Quetta. —*PTI*

Sudan's violent group kills 30 in Omdurman

CAIRO, 29 APRIL

Sudan's notorious paramilitary group killed at least 30 people in an attack on Omdurman, the sister city of capital Khartoum, authorities and an activist group said on Monday. Rapid Support Forces are alleged to have kidnapped dozens of people, including women, from Salha, an area in the southern part of Omdurman on Sunday morning, according to the Resistance Committees activist group. Footage circulated online showed fighters wearing RSF uniforms holding dozens of men – some half-naked – in an open area, with bodies lying on the ground. In a statement, the RSF didn't deny the killing, but sought to distance itself from the perpetrators, saying those who appeared in the footage "are not affiliated with our forces in any way whatsoever." —*PTI*

Carney calls for unity amid Trump threats

Trump again tries to woo Canada to become 51st US state for zero tariffs

TORONTO, 29 APRIL

Prime Minister Mike Carney called for unity among Canadians amidst Washington's annexation threats and of tariffs in his first victory speech in Ottawa.

Seeming to prepare Canadians for tough times ahead, he said the mutually beneficial system Canada and the US had shared since World War II had ended.

"We are over the shock of the American betrayal, but we should never forget the lessons," he said.

Carney warned that US President Donald Trump's annexation threats were not an idle one. "President Trump is trying to break us so America can own us. That will never ...ever happen. But we also must recognise the reality that our world has fundamentally changed."

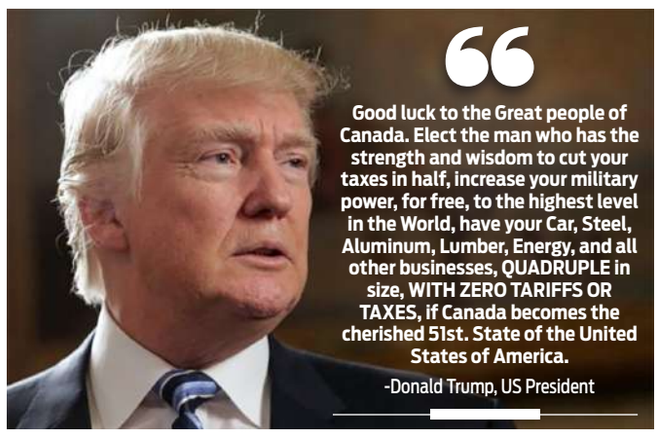
This may be just the beginning of a daunting challenge ahead of Carney who not only has to negotiate a trade deal with US President Donald Trump but also fix the rising cost of living in the country.

While campaigning, Carney vowed that every dollar the collected from counter-tariffs on US goods will go toward Canadian workers adversely affected by the trade war. He also promised a middle-class tax cut and return immigration to sustainable levels.

However, it was Trump's annexation threat even until 2 days before elections, that proved to be the antidote to the trailing Liberal party and powered Carney's campaign to a victory finish.

After polls closed, it wasn't immediately clear, if Liberals would win an outright majority or would need support of a smaller party. —*PTI*

Liberal Leader Mark Carney arrives in Ottawa, Canada, Monday after his victory **PHOTO: PTI**



> Good luck to the Great people of Canada. Elect the man who has the strength and wisdom to cut your taxes in half, increase your military power, for free, to the highest level in the World, have your Car, Steel, Aluminum, Lumber, Energy, and all other businesses, QUADRUPLE in size, WITH ZERO TARIFFS OR TAXES, if Canada becomes the cherished 51st. State of the United States of America.
>
> -Donald Trump, US President

Who is Mike Carney?

- Born in the remote town of Fort Smith, in the Northwest Territories, Canada.
- He did his doctorate in economics from Oxford University in 1995.
- He worked for a decade at Goldman Sachs' London, Tokyo, New York and Toronto offices.
- He returned to Canada and served as the governor of the Bank of Canada from 2008 to 2013, a period that included the global financial crisis.
- He then ran the Bank of England — becoming the first non-Briton appointed to do so — from 2013 to 2020.
- After that, Carney served as the United Nations special envoy on climate action and finance.
- Unlike most PM-hopefuls, Carney had never held political office. Still, he won the Liberal Party contest to replace outgoing PM Justin Trudeau.

Indo-Canadian leader Jagmeet Singh loses seat in polls

Ottawa, 29 April

Pro Khalistani, Canadian politician and New Democratic Party (NDP) chief Jagmeet Singh suffered a major blow in the elections and failed to secure the 12 seats needed for official party status. Singh lost his seat in the House of Commons, one he's held since 2019. Expressing disappointment over the loss in a post on 'X' he said he would be resigning as NDP leader. —*ANI*

Trump mandates English proficiency for truckers

NEW YORK/ WASHINGTON, 29 APRIL

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order mandating that truck drivers in America be proficient in English, a requirement that has raised concerns among Sikh advocacy groups.

The Executive Order 'Enforcing Commonsense Rules of the Road for America's Truck Drivers' says "Proficiency in English," which Trump has designated as America's official national language, "should be a non-negotiable safety requirement for professional drivers. They should be able to read and understand traffic signs, communicate with traffic safety, border patrol, agricultural checkpoints, and cargo weight-limit station officers,"

PHOTO: AI

the order issued Monday said.

"Drivers need to provide feedback to their employers and customers and receive related directions in English. This is common sense," it added saying the requirement would make roads safer.

Advocacy group Sikh Coalition said the order raised significant concerns for the Sikh community, which has a huge presence in the American trucking industry.

The group said it is still working with partners to better understand the "legal implications and implementation process" of the order while expressing concerns that it could have a discriminatory impact on Sikh truck drivers and create unnecessary barriers to employment for qualified individuals.

It cited estimates by The Economist, which said in a report that approximately 150,000 Sikhs work in the trucking industry, 90 per cent of whom are drivers.

"Our community has played a vital role in meeting the high demand for drivers. More than 30,000 Sikh drivers joined the industry between 2016 and 2018, contributing significantly to this critical sector prior to supply chain problems in 2020. Sikhs help drive quite literally the American economy," the Coalition said. —*PTI*

DANISH KING IN GREENLAND AMID TRUMP THREATS

NUUK, 29 APRIL

King Frederik X of Denmark arrived in Greenland on Tuesday, amidst US President Donald Trump threat to annexe it..

Frederik's trip to the island's capital city of Nuuk follows the new Greenlandic prime minister's visit to Copenhagen earlier this week. Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen accompanied the monarch to Nuuk.

This Greenland trip comes after U.S. Vice President JD Vance visited a remote US military base on the island and accused Denmark of underinvesting in it.

The king is expected to meet with the new Greenlandic government this week, and attend a traditional "kaffemik", or coffee break, to meet with Greenlanders, the royal house said. —*PTI*

FREE AFTER 4 YEARS

2 HK men jailed under Beijing law released

HONG KONG, 29 APRIL

Four former Hong Kong lawmakers were freed from prison on Tuesday, having served more than four years for their conviction under a Beijing-imposed law that crushed a once-thriving pro-democracy movement.

Claudia Mo, Jeremy Tam, Kwok Ka-ki and Gary Fan were among the 47 activists arrested in 2021 for their roles in an unofficial primary election. They were the first of the convicted activists to reunite with their families and friends following four long years of separation.

Only cars believed to be involved in the release operation were seen leaving the three prisons in the remote areas of the Asian financial hub. Reporters, who waited for hours outside the prisons were unable to see them in person.

The 2020 unofficial primary drew 6,10,000 voters, and its winners had been expected to advance to the official legislative election. Authorities postponed that, citing public health risks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the trial, prosecutors said the activists aimed to paralyse Hong Kong's government and force the city's leader to resign by aiming to win a legislative majority. The judges said in their verdict last year that the activists' plans to effect change through the unofficial primary would undermine the government's authority and create a constitutional crisis. —*PTI*

IRAN SAYS FIRE DOUSED AS PORT BLAST TOLL REACHES 70

DUBAI, 28 APRIL

Iran finally extinguished a fire Monday at a southern port rocked by an explosion as the death toll in the blast rose to at least 70 people killed, authorities said.

Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni announced the fire had been put out, while provincial emergency health official Mehrdad Hasanzadeh gave the death toll.

The port reportedly took in a chemical component needed for solid fuel for ballistic missiles — something denied by authorities though they've not explained the source of the power that caused such destruction.

The blast Saturday disintegrated a building next to the blast site, which appeared to be in a row where other containers once stood, the satellite photos showed.

A rescue worker in front of burnt vehicles after a massive blast rocked the Shahid Rajaei port last week **PHOTO: PTI**

The photos from Planet Labs PBC came as local news reports from the site raised more questions about the cause of the blast Saturday at the Shahid Rajaei port near Bandar Abbas. —*PTI*

Conclave starts 7 May to elect new Pope

VATICAN CITY, 29 APRIL

Cardinals have chosen May 7 as the date to start conclave and elect a new leader for 1.4 billion Catholics around the world, the Vatican announced. The date for the papal election was decided on Monday after cardinals held the first daily congregation since Pope Francis' funeral.

The controversial Italian cardinal Angelo Becciu at the heart of the Vatican's "trial of the century" announced on Tuesday he was withdrawing from participating in the upcoming conclave to elect a new pope for "the good of the church".

WHAT IS THE CONCLAVE?

The conclave is the centuries-old election process of a pope that derives its name from the Italian "con clave" (with a key) to underscore that cardinals are sequestered until they find a winner.

Cardinals will have no contact with the outside world after the master of liturgical ceremonies utters the words "Extra Omnes" the Latin phrase for "all out". Between votes, the cardinals will stay at the Domus Santa Marta hotel in Vatican City.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The day begins with a Holy Mass in the morning. In the afternoon, the cardinals progress into the Sistine Chapel and take their seats. A priest delivers a meditation and the cardinals take an oath. After the "Extra Omnes", the conclave begins.

Unless there are any outstanding questions or problems, cardinals take a single vote in the afternoon of 7 May, seeking a two-thirds majority. If they do not find a winner on the first ballot, they return to the Sistine Chapel the next morning, until they have a winner.

Cardinals attend a mass on the third of nine days of mourning for late Pope Francis, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

WHO GETS TO VOTE?

Only cardinals under 80 are eligible to vote. Current regulations limit the number of electors to 120, but Popes have often exceeded that ceiling and today, there are 135 eligible cardinals. —*PTI*

CHAOTIC MONDAY

Spain, Portugal's power restored; blackout's cause remains mystery

MADRID, 29 APRIL

Power was almost fully restored to Spain and Portugal on Tuesday although many questions remained about what caused one of Europe's most severe blackouts that grounded flights, paralysed metro systems, disrupted mobile communications and shut down ATMs across the Iberian Peninsula.

By Tuesday morning local time, more than 99 per cent of energy demand in Spain had been restored, the country's electricity operator Red Electrica said. Portuguese grid operator REN said Tuesday morning all of the 89 power substations were back online. Life was returning to normal, but Spanish authorities were still at loss to provide reasons for the most serious blackout ever in Europe that has little or no precedent.

Passengers at Madrid airport were stranded during a major power outage, Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

In a televised address Monday night, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said he had never witnessed such a complete collapse of the system. Spain's meteorological agency AEMET said that it had not detected any "unusual meteorological or atmospheric phenomena" on Monday,

Portugal's National Cybersecurity Center and European Council President Antonio Costa ruled out 'cyber-attacks' as a reason for the outage. At Spain's largest train stations, many travellers waited Tuesday morning to board trains or to rebook tickets and return home.

Metro systems were restored in Madrid but commuter and mid-distance services were still affected. The Madrid Open tennis tournament was suspended. Spain's Emergency workers said they had rescued some 35,000 passengers on Monday stranded along railways and underground, with the blackout turning sports centres, train stations and airports into makeshift overnight refuges. —*PTI*

People buy food at a supermarket during a massive power outage in Pamplona, northern Spain, Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

RIL shares surge following Q4 net profit rise

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Shares of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) rose by over 2 per cent on Tuesday, building on the previous day's gains after the company announced a 2.4 per cent increase in its net profit for the March quarter. The stock climbed 2.32 per cent, closing at Rs 1,400.30 on the BSE, with an intra-day high of Rs 1,410.90. On the NSE, shares gained 2.19 per cent, reaching Rs 1,398.90. Over just two days, Reliance's market valuation soared by Rs 1,35,662.05 crore to Rs 18,94,938.18 crore, making it the top performer among Sensex firms. *—PTI*

PHOTO:FREEPIK

Rupee dips 2 paise amid geopolitical tensions

MUMBAI, 29 APRIL

The Indian rupee fell by 2 paise to settle at 85.25 against the US dollar on Tuesday, influenced by a recovering dollar and rising geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan. The rupee opened at 85.06, fluctuating between a high of 84.96 and a low of 85.40. Despite a slight depreciation, domestic market positivity and declining crude oil prices provided some support. Experts predict ongoing pressure on the rupee due to uncertainties surrounding trade tariffs and escalating regional tensions. In Kashmir, nearly 50 public parks have closed for tourist safety following a recent terror attack. The Union Cabinet is set to convene for the first time since the incident. *—PTI*

Canara HSBC Life Insurance files for IPO

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Ltd has submitted preliminary documents to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to launch an initial public offering (IPO). The move comes shortly after Canara Robeco Asset Management Company filed its draft IPO papers with Sebi. The IPO consists entirely of an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 23.75 crore equity shares, with Canara Bank selling 13.77 crore shares, HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings Ltd offloading 47.5 lakh shares, and Punjab National Bank divesting 9.5 crore shares. As it is an OFS, the company will not benefit from the proceeds. Founded in 2007 as a joint venture, Canara HSBC has established itself as a key player in India's life insurance market. *—PTI*

Urban Company files for ₹1,900 cr IPO

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Urban Company, the mobile app-driven beauty and home care service provider, has submitted preliminary documentation to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to raise Rs 1,900 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The proposal includes Rs 429 crore from new shares, while existing investors aim to offload stakes totalling Rs 1,471 crore, as detailed in the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). Participating in the offer for sale (OFS) are notable stakeholders such as Accel India, Elevation Capital, and Bessemer India Capital Holdings II Ltd. The funds will be allocated to technology development, office lease payments, marketing, and general corporate purposes. Operating in 59 cities including India, the UAE, Singapore, and Saudi Arabia, Urban Company provides a variety of services—from cleaning to beauty treatments—delivered by independent professionals at consumers' convenience. The IPO is managed by Kotak Mahindra Capital Company and others. *—PTI*

Gold to stay strong this Akshaya Tritiya

Experts say that despite a surge in rates, there will be accelerated consumer interest

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Gold demand in India is expected to remain strong during Akshaya Tritiya this year, despite the surge in prices, as buyers are drawn by the high returns seen over the past two years.

Experts say that despite a surge in rates, there will be accelerated consumer interest in the yellow metal with people moving towards lightweight and studded jewellery.

Commodity experts, however, believe that there will likely be a pullback in gold prices in the coming months, following the recent sharp uptick, with prices crossing Rs 1 lakh per 10 grams.

Gem and Jewellery Council of India Chairman Rajesh Rokde said gold has delivered an annual return of 20–25 per cent over the past two years.

"Last year, on Akshaya Tritiya, the gold price was Rs 72,000/10 g, and in 2023 it was Rs 58,000. With an annual growth rate of 20–25 per cent, this steady increase is attracting numerous buyers. Because of this rally in gold, people are increasingly investing in it due to the strong returns over the past two years," he said.

Rokde added that India imported 802 tonnes of gold in 2024, compared to 741 tonnes in 2023, showing a clear rise in both value and volume of demand. This indicates that, despite the price increase, gold consumption continues to rise annually.

PNG Jewellers CMD Saurabh Gadgil said, "This year, Akshaya Tritiya is falling at the cusp of a packed wedding season. We anticipate a strong turnout, both for fresh purchases and for deliveries scheduled on the day. Rising gold prices have accelerated consumer interest in studded jewellery."

Many customers are exchanging old gold for new bridal jewellery to manage costs, he said. *—ANI*

A recent uptick sent gold prices above the Rs 1 lakh/10 grams *PHOTO: PTI*

Gold jumps ₹1,050 to ₹99,450/10g in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Gold prices surged Rs 1,050 to Rs 99,450 per 10 grams in Delhi on Tuesday, driven by fresh buying from jewellers and stockists ahead of Akshaya Tritiya, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The 99.5 per cent purity gold rose Rs 1,100 to Rs 99,000 per 10 grams. On Monday, gold had declined Rs 1,000.

So far in 2025, gold prices have increased Rs 20,500 per 10 grams or 26per cent, up from Rs 78,950 on 31 December 2024. Silver prices also jumped Rs 3,500—the sharpest in three weeks—reaching Rs 1,02,000 per kg, close to its all-time high of Rs 1,03,500 on 19 March. Silver had closed at Rs 98,500 in the previous session.

Akshaya Tritiya, observed on 30 April, is traditionally a peak period for gold buying due to its cultural and reli-gious significance. Despite elevated prices, demand remains robust, especially for lightweight items, with jewellers offering varied options to cater to diverse budgets. *—PTI*

PHOTO:PIXABAY

India, US looking for 'early mutual wins'

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

India and the US are looking at "early mutual wins" before finalising the first phase of the proposed bilateral trade agreement, the commerce ministry said on Tuesday. Chief negotiators of both countries concluded a three-day talk in Washington last week.

During the meetings in Washington, the teams deliberated on wide-ranging subjects including tariff (related to goods) and non-tariff matters. "The team discussed the pathway for concluding the first tranche of the mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement by fall (September–October) of 2025, including through opportunities for early mutual wins," the ministry said in a statement.

While productive sectoral expert level engagements have taken place virtually, in-person engagements are planned from May end, it said.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has said that India is likely to be among the first countries to finalise a bilateral trade agreement with the US to avert reciprocal tariffs by President Donald Trump.

"Negotiations with our Asian trading partners are going very well. Vice President (JD) Vance was in India last week and talked about substantial progress... "I would guess that India would be one of the first trade deals we would sign. So watch this space," Bessent said.

Bessent also put the responsibility for reaching a trade agreement on China.

"I believe that it's up to China to de-escalate, because they sell five times more to us than we sell to them, and so these 120 per cent, 145 per cent tariffs are unsustainable," he said during the interview. *—ANI*

Markets surge; Sensex up 70 points

MUMBAI, 29 APRIL

Equity benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty, closed slightly higher on Tuesday amid a volatile trading session as investors remained cautious over rising geopolitical tensions. However, robust buying in key blue-chip stocks such as Reliance Industries, Infosys, and Tata Consultancy Services, alongside steady foreign capital inflows, lent some support to the domestic market.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 70.01 points, or 0.09 per cent, to finish at 80,288.38. Intraday, it surged by as much as 442.94 points, reaching 80,661.31 at one point. The NSE Nifty, meanwhile, climbed by 7.45 points, or 0.03 per cent, to settle at 24,335.95.

Top gainers from the Sensex included Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, and Tata Consultancy Services, while laggards featured UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were active buyers, purchasing equities worth Rs 2,474.10 crore on Monday, as per exchange data.

"The market showed a largely range-bound trend, influenced by geopolitical concerns regarding border tensions. However, sustained FII inflows helped support the market sentiment and mitigated further pessimism. Mixed Q4 results have, however, raised concerns about potential downward revisions to FY26 projections," commented Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited.

In other markets, South Korea's Kospi and Hong Kong's Hang Seng indices closed positively, while the Shanghai SSE Composite ended slightly lower. Brent crude prices fell by 1.59 per cent to USD 64.81 per barrel. *—ANI*

Asian shares advance on Wall Street

NEW YORK, 29 APRIL

Asian shares were mostly higher on Tuesday after US stocks drifted to a mixed, quiet finish ahead of a busy week of corporate earnings and economic data that could bring more bouts of volatility.

US futures edged higher and oil prices fell. Tokyo's markets were closed for a holiday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng was nearly unchanged at 21,969.67, while the Shanghai Composite index edged 0.1 per cent lower, to 3,285.68. In South Korea, the Kospi jumped 0.7 per cent to 2,565.42. *—PTI*

Gensol shares' free-fall enters day 14

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Shares of Gensol Engineering tanked 5 per cent to hit a fresh lower circuit limit on Tuesday due to ongoing crisis at the firm. The stock of the firm dropped 4.97 per cent to Rs 82.20 – the lowest trading permissible limit for the day as also its 52-week low on the BSE. Shares of the firm fell 5 per cent to hit its lower circuit as well as a 52-week low level of Rs 81.36 on the NSE.

This is the 14th day of decline for the stock. From its 52-week high of Rs 1,125.75, the stock has lost 92.69 per cent. *—PTI*

Adani Green Energy profit up 25.54% to ₹383 cr in Q4

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Adani Green Energy has announced a robust growth in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter, reporting a 25.54 increase to Rs 383 crore, up from Rs 310 crore in the same period last year, as disclosed in a regulatory filing. The surge in profit is primarily attributed to an escalation in revenues.

Total income for the quarter reached Rs 3,278 crore, a substantial rise from Rs 2,841 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. For the full fiscal year 2025, consolidated net profit also saw an impressive rise to Rs 2,001 crore, compared to Rs 1,260 crore in FY24. Likewise, total income for FY25 increased to Rs 12,422 crore, up from Rs 10,521 crore in FY24. In corporate developments, the company's board has approved the re-appointment of Vneet S Jaain as Managing Director for a further five years from 10 July 2025, subject to shareholder approval. *—PTI*

PNB Housing Finance shares surge 10%

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Shares of PNB Housing Finance experienced a remarkable 10 per cent increase on Tuesday, following the company's announcement of a 25 per cent rise in net profit for the March quarter, amounting to Rs 550 crore. The stock soared to Rs 1,085.40 on the BSE and reached Rs 1,084.85 on the NSE.

The housing finance firm reported a net profit of Rs 439 crore for the same quarter last year. Total income during this quarter climbed to Rs 2,037 crore, up from Rs 1,814 crore a year earlier.

Interest income rose to Rs 1,906 crore, compared to Rs 1,693 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. The net interest income for Q4 FY25 increased by 16 per cent to Rs 734 crore, with the net interest margin rising to 3.75 per cent from 3.65 per cent in Q4 FY24. *—PTI*

On UK visit, Goyal explores trade & investment avenues

LONDON, 29 APRIL

Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is currently on a two-day visit to London, focusing on enhancing bilateral trade and investment ties between India and the UK.

During his visit, Goyal met with senior UK officials, including Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, to progress the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, which were re-launched in February after a hiatus due to last year's general elections.

In addition to discussions surrounding the FTA, Goyal held one-on-one meetings with key business leaders, including Revolut Chair Martin Gilbert, where they explored opportunities in India's growing fintech sector, and De Beers Group CEO Al Cook, focusing on sustainability and growth trends within the diamond industry.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal interacts with members of the Indian business delegation in UK *PHOTO: PTI*

After these engagements, Goyal interacted with an Indian business delegation, which included prominent figures from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). "We discussed the robust growth of our industry and avenues for greater collaboration with the UK for mutual prosperity," Goyal noted.

On Tuesday, Goyal is set to meet UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves and other senior officials. The UK government has expressed its commitment to securing a beneficial trade deal with India, aimed at enhancing access for UK businesses, reducing tariffs, and simplifying trade processes. The current India-UK trade partnership is valued at approximately GBP 41 billion annually, with expectations for significant growth. *—PTI*

27 INTERNET SATS LAUNCHED

Amazon now takes on Starlink

CAPE CANAVERAL, 29 APRIL

Amazon's first batch of Internet satellites rocketed toward orbit on Monday, the latest entry in the mega constellation market currently dominated by SpaceX's thousands of Starlinks.

The United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket carried up 27 of Amazon's Project Kuiper satellites, named after the frigid fringes of our solar system beyond Neptune. Once released in orbit, the satellites will eventually reach an altitude of nearly 630 kilometres.

Two test satellites were launched in 2023, also by an Atlas V. Project officials said major upgrades were made to the newest version. The latest satellites also are coated with a mirror film designed to scatter reflected sunlight in an attempt to accommodate astronomers.

Stargazers oppose the fast-growing constellations of low-orbiting satellites, arguing they spoil observations. Others fear more satellite collisions.

Founded by Jeff Bezos, who now runs his own rocket company, Blue Origin, Amazon aims to put more than 3,200 of these satellites into orbit to provide fast, affordable broadband service around the globe.

Elon Musk's SpaceX already has launched more than 8,000 Starlinks since 2019. The company marked its 250th Starlink launch Sunday night. More than 7,000 Starlinks are still in orbit some 550 kilometres above Earth.

The European-based OneWeb satellite constellation numbers in the hundreds in an even higher orbit. *—PTI*

The United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket carried Amazon's Project Kuiper satellites *PHOTO: AP*

OpenAI makes ChatGPT more 'shopper-friendly'

MUMBAI, 29 APRIL

PHOTO:FREEPIK

ChatGPT is all set to make online shopping easier, with OpenAI making an update to the chatbot on Monday that integrates images, reviews and direct purchase links to its interface.

This new feature is available on GPT-4o, the default model for ChatGPT, across all account types. Users on Android phones, iPhones and web can now use it. OpenAI is expected to make a global rollout soon.

Shoppers can key in a simple question and receive recommendations with product images, ratings and links to sellers' websites. The results are generated from third-party metadata such as pricing, product descriptions and user reviews.

OpenAI said ChatGPT has achieved a remarkable growth in users, citing that it has handled over a billion web searches last week, but ruled out plans to make revenue through advertising at present.

The company said it will soon integrate another feature to remember user preferences so that ChatGPT can offer more personalised recommendations. *—Agencies*

PHOTO: X

Max Purcell accepts 18-month ban for anti-doping breach

PARIS, 29 APRIL

Grand slam doubles champion Max Purcell has accepted an 18-month ban for breaching anti-doping rules, with the Australian saying he has developed a nervous tic and anxiety because of the case. The 27-year-old entered a voluntary provisional suspension in December after admitting to breaching Article 2.2 of the Tennis Anti-Doping Program "relating to the use of a prohibited method". The reigning US Open doubles champion received IV infusions of more than 500ml twice in December 2023 after falling ill in Bali.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Shaw named icon player for T20 Mumbai League

MUMBAI, 29 APRIL

Prithvi Shaw is now one of the icon players for the third edition of the T20 Mumbai League set to take place from 26th May to 8th June. Along with Shaw, Suryakumar Yadav, and Shreyas Iyer are featured in this roster. He went unsold at the IPL 2025 auction. Other participants among several stars include Ajinkya Rahane, Shivam Dube, Tushar Deshpande, Shardul Thakur, and Sarfaraz Khan. Ruturaj Gaikwad was replaced by Ayush Mhatre for Chennai Super Kings, with many considering Shaw a good suitor for that role. Last season, he scored 197 runs in 9 matches for Mumbai, the winner of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. —*PTI*

Premier League scores big in India with new Mumbai

LONDON, 29 APRIL

The English Premier League today announced a significant expansion of its global footprint with the inauguration of a new office in Mumbai, India. This strategic move will build upon the League's established efforts to connect with its vast and passionate Indian fanbase and partners, further promoting football across the nation while bolstering the continued growth of the League and its member clubs.—*PTI*

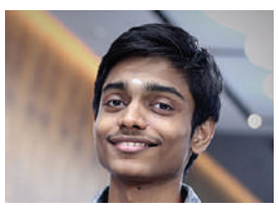


PHOTO: X

Chithambaram finishes joint first in rapid section

WARSAW, 29 APRIL

Delivering under pressure, Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram put it across Frenchman Alireza Firouzja in the final game to finish joint first with 11 points after the end of the rapid section of the Superbet Rapid and Blitz tournament, a part of the Grand Chess Tour. The Indian wild card entrant needed to match Firouzja and Slovenian Vladimir Fedoseev on points, and he got a little lucky after wild complications as the Frenchman lost on time from what could have been a drawn rook and pawns endgame. Star performer R Praggnanandhaa bounced back in the event and jumped to joint fourth spot. —*PTI*

CSK look to turn around fortunes against Punjab

Five-time champions CSK have had a disappointing season

CHENNAI, 29 APRIL

With their play-off hopes all but over, Chennai Super Kings will look to turn around a floundering campaign when they square off against a better-placed but erratic Punjab Kings in their Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

Five-time champions CSK have had a disappointing season. They are languishing at the bottom of the table with just two wins out of nine games. PBKS, on the other hand, are placed fifth in the standings with five wins from nine matches and would look to rise with a victory against a demoralised CSK side, which has failed to get its combinations right so far in the season. What has been most disheartening for CSK is their inability to master the home conditions at the Chepauk, considered a fortress for a long time.

CSK would be desperate to register their third win of the tournament to keep slim hopes of making it to the playoffs alive. Even a talisman like Mahendra Singh Dhoni has failed to fire up the side after taking over the leadership from Ruturaj Gaikwad, who has been ruled out due to an elbow injury. And Dhoni admitted that CSK are struggling to get their lineups right. "If you see the powerplay, whether it was the combination or the conditions, we are struggling with both bat and ball," Dhoni had said.

CSK's young recruit Ayush Mhatre, who grabbed eyeballs on his IPL debut, will look to put on a strong display when he takes on Arshdeep Singh in the powerplay. The most entertaining battle is expected to be between Shivam Dube and Yuzvendra Chahal in the middle overs.

Chahal has been in magnificent form for PBKS in the second half of the tournament, and it would be interesting to see how the CSK middle order handles him. —*PTI*

Struggling CSK look for batting resurgence against Punjab Kings PHOTO: PTI

CSK VS PBKS

HEAD TO HEAD	
PLAYED:	31
CSK Won:	16
PBKS Won:	14
NO RESULT:	1

CSK vs PBKS Match starts at **7.30 pm IST**

Vaibhav Suryavanshi, a special talent, can serve Indian cricket for a long time

-Vikram Rathour, RR batting coach

Vaibhav 14-year-old ward to break into India's T20 team in the next one or two years.

-Manish Ojha, childhood coach

First-ball sixes are normal for me: Suryavanshi

JAIPUR, 29 APRIL

The cricket world stands captivated by his audacious stroke-play, but for 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi, stuff like first-ball sixes is a "normal thing" as he remains unfazed by the grandeur of the stage.

Suryavanshi lit up the IPL by becoming the youngest ever centurion in T20 cricket with his 38-ball 101 that was dotted with 11 sixes and seven fours. A staggering 94 of his runs came in boundaries in what was only his third game in the high-stakes tournament.

This was after a whirlwind 34-run knock on IPL debut that came off 20 balls and featured the first-ball six that fixed the spotlight firmly on his cherubic face.

"It was not like that, I was thinking it was my first game. Yes, there was an international bowler (in front of me) and the stage was big, but I was just playing my game," he recalled.

Nitish hails new IPL sensation from Bihar, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, announces Rs 10-lakh reward

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday lauded 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi for becoming the youngest-ever centurion in T20 cricket, and announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh for his stellar performance.

Suryavanshi lit up the IPL on Monday evening with his 38-ball 101 that was dotted with 11 sixes and seven fours.

A staggering 94 runs of the young Rajasthan Royals batter came in boundaries in the match against the Gujarat Titans.

"Congratulations and best wishes to Vaibhav Suryavanshi from Bihar, who has become the youngest player in the history of IPL to score a century.

With his hard work and talent, he has emerged as a new hope for Indian cricket. Everyone is proud of him. —*PTI*

MUNJAL FAILS DOPE TEST, GETS 5-YEAR BAN FROM AIU

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Rameshwar Munjal, who had won title in the Navy Half Marathon in Mumbai on 8 December last year, was on Tuesday handed a five-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit of World Athletics after he tested positive for prohibited substances.

The 27-year-old had clocked 1 hour, 9 minutes, and three seconds to win the IndianOil WNC Navy Half Marathon, but he is now stripped of his title as his in-competition urine sample was found to contain Erythropoietin (EPO) and Darbepoetin (dEPO) which are prohibited at all times. His sample was tested at the World Anti-Doping Agency-accredited. National Dope Testing Laboratory in New Delhi, which reported the Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) on 12 March this year. —*PTI*

FIA reconsidering swearing stance

LONDON, 29 APRIL

The president of Formula 1's governing body, FIA, has signaled he'll make "improvements" to punishments for swearing and criticise, which have sparked a backlash from F1 drivers.

FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem posted on Instagram Monday that after "constructive feedback" from drivers across the various events the FIA governs, "I am considering making improvements to Appendix B." That's the document which lays out the punishments for a range of offenses, ranging from physical violence to political statements, swearing, and any comments deemed to cause "moral injury or loss" to FIA. Ben Sulayem has been seeking to crack down on swearing since last year, and punishments were tightened for 2025 to allow for larger fines and suspensions for drivers who swear repeatedly.

The crackdown on swearing prompted a backlash from F1 drivers when Max Verstappen and Charles Leclerc were punished last year. —*PTI*

Shadman hits a century

CHATTOGRAM, 29 APRIL

Opener Shadman Islam hit a century to give Bangladesh a narrow lead in the second and final test against Zimbabwe.

Shadman made a career-best 120 to guide Bangladesh to 291-7 at stumps on Day 2, leading the visitors by 64 runs. But a late flurry of wickets prevented Bangladesh from taking complete control as Zimbabwe leg-spinner Vincent Masekesa claimed 3-44 on his debut.

Masekesa's three-for included the wicket of Mominul Haque (33) and captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (23), who appeared set for a big knock. Veteran Mushfiqur Rahim was run out for 40 to give Zimbabwe further hope. —*PTI*

INTER MILAN SLUMP PUTS SEASON AT RISK

MILAN, 29 APRIL

Inter Milan head into the Champions League semi-finals at risk of finishing the season empty-handed after a late-season slump killed their treble hopes and has left them wondering where the next win will come from. Wednesday's daunting clash at Barcelona could hardly have come at a worse time for Inter, who, since reaching the last four, have lost three games on the bounce without scoring a goal. Those three defeats handed Napoli a three-point lead at the top of Serie A with four matches remaining and left Inter out of the Italian Cup after a dismal 3-0 derby defeat at the hands of AC Milan last week. —*PTI*

WOMEN'S TRI-SERIES

India beat South Africa by 15 runs, Sneh Rana picks a fifer

COLOMBO, 29 APRIL

Veteran off-spinner Sneh Rana grabbed her maiden five-for as Indian women beat South Africa by 15 runs to notch up their second successive win in the ODI tri-series here on Tuesday.

India had beaten hosts Sri Lanka by nine wickets in the opening game on Sunday.

Batting first, rising star Pratika Rawal's 78 and handy contributions from skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (41) and Jemimah Rodrigues (41) took India to a healthy 276 for 6 in 50 overs.

In reply, opener Taznim Brits (109) scored a fine hundred, but South Africa managed only 261 in 49.2 overs with off-spinner Rana getting 5 for 43 in 10 overs.

Brief Scores:

India women: 276 for 6 in 50 overs (Pratika Rawal 78, Harmanpreet Kaur 41, Jemimah Rodrigues 41).

South Africa women: 261 all out in 49.2 overs (Taznim Brits 109, Sneh Rana 5/43). —*PTI*

India's Sneh Rana in action against South Africa in the Tri-Nation Series in Colombo PHOTO: SLC

Madrid Open: Swiatek scrapes into QFs

MADRID, 29 APRIL

Defending champion Iga Swiatek reached her fifth WTA 1000 quarterfinal of the season with a 6-0, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4 victory over 13th-seeded Diana Shnaider at the Madrid Open on Tuesday.

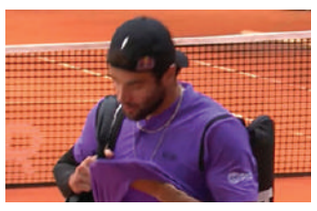
After a nationwide blackout cancelled the majority of play at the Caja Magica on Monday, power was restored at the venue on Tuesday morning, with matches commencing at 12pm. In her first meeting with the Russian left-hander, Swiatek saved 11 of 13 break points en route to a two-hour 34-minute victory that sent her through to a last-eight showdown with Madison Keys or Donna Vekic.Asked about the power outage, the 23-year-old Swiatek admitted she enjoyed being off the grid for a few hours on Tuesday."Honestly, I liked yesterday, I think the whole world was more relaxed

Jack through as Matteo dramatically retires

Jack Draper advanced to the last-16 of the Madrid Open after Matteo Berrettini retired due to injury after losing the first-set tiebreak.

The Italian appeared to be struggling with his oblique muscles from his previous match and went to shake Draper's hand after the British No. 1 won the decider 7-2.

Draper looked to be surprised as he turned around to see Berrettini with his hand extended, but he explained afterwards that he had noticed he was struggling. —*PTI*



MUNICH WORLD CUP

Bhaker, Kusale, AG champ Palak in squad

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Paris Olympics stars Manu Bhaker and Swapnil Kusale were on Tuesday named in the 23-member Indian squad along with reigning Asian Games champion Palak for the Munich leg of the Rifle/Pistol ISSF World Cup, beginning 8 June.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) announced the squad with Bhaker being the only member to make the cut in two individual events, women's 10m and 25m pistol events.

Also returning to the national team is Sandeep Singh in men's air rifle. Kusale and Sandeep will be seen in action for the first time since their Paris Games appearances.

The Indian rifle and pistol squad recently returned from a two-legged combined ISSF World Cup stage in Argentina and Peru, with 15 medals, including six gold. India was second in the standings in Argentina and third in Peru.

A total of 13 members from that squad find themselves in the Munich team as well, with no changes seen in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) and 25m pistol competitions only.

There will also be as many as three debutants in Munich.

National champion Ananya Naidu of Maharashtra has been given a chance to extend her fine run of form in the domestic circuit to the international stage.

Two men's air pistol shooters, Haryana's Aditya Malra, who recently picked up the Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Mixed Team title, and Army marksman Nishant Rawat, will also be seen in senior India colours for the very first time. —*PTI*

Swapnil Kusale and Paris Olympics stars Manu Bhaker PHOTO: PTI

Bologna miss out on Serie A top four after draw

LONDON, 29 APRIL

Bologna held on for a scoreless draw at Udinese in Serie A on Monday and a precious point in its bid to play in European competition next season.

Bologna dominated possession, but goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski was made to work much harder than his counterpart.

The team was one point out of the top four Champions League qualifying places. Bologna played in the Champions League this season for the first time in 60 years.

Lazio could have replaced Bologna in fifth place, but drew at home with Parma 2-2 from 2-0 down.

Lazio's point left it out of the top six European qualifying places on goal difference.

Pedro scored twice in the last 11 minutes for Lazio after Parma forward Jacob Ondrejka scored at the start of each half. Parma ran its unbeaten streak to seven games, including six draws, to be five points from the relegation zone. —*PTI*